

Raleigh is one of the younger men in the regiment we see into, and this shows clearly through his immature behaviour as such. The other men are civilised, and at least seem like they know what they're doing and what they're there for, yet Raleigh at this stage seems to think war is just a load of fun and games. He was "looking forward" to meeting Stanhope once more, and explains getting into the same regiment was "a great coincidence," showing that in reality, he doesn't comprehend the real dangers of war, and the traumas it can cause for the soldiers fighting in it.

This could link into the ongoing metaphor of a lack of resources for the soldiers, as we hear earlier on in the play of "17 pairs and 13 single," showing there aren't enough boots for everyone, directly linking into Raleigh's boots being too big for him. This could potentially be a metaphor emphasising the fact that he isn't entirely sure what he has signed up for, and that in reality he is too young and inexperienced for fighting in the war. Only those that fit the boots should be allowed to fight the battle, as this shows they have matured more efficiently.

Yet another characteristic of Raleigh's which shows his naivety is his constant conversation about his and Stanhope's childhood, showing that he remembers those as the good days, perhaps why he acts like a child in comparison to the other already matured men? Stanhope tries to rid of Raleigh and his conversation, as Raleigh is oblivious to the fact that Stanhope is a changed man, and thus could mean trouble for him (Stanhope) and his fiancée. Raleigh does not know about this however, juxtaposing the idea of his naivety towards the whole idea of going to war.

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